

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for conducting a business transaction over a network, the method  
2 comprising the computer-implemented steps of:  
3 specifying, in a description of a web service that is provided by a first party, that at  
4 least some communications to said web service are to include trading partner  
5 information;  
6 receiving, by said first party, a request for said web service;  
7 wherein said request was constructed, based on said description, to include particular  
8 trading partner information associated with business transactions between said  
9 first party and a second party; and  
10 wherein said particular trading partner information includes identification of said  
11 second party as a trading partner of said first party.
- 1 2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the computer-implemented steps of:  
2 based on at least a portion of said particular trading partner information, determining  
3 whether said second party is an established trading partner of said first party.
- 1 3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the computer-implemented steps of:  
2 based on at least a portion of said particular trading partner information, determining  
3 whether said second party is an established trading partner of said first party;  
4 and

5 if it is determined that said second party is an established trading partner of said first  
6 party, then accessing, based on said particular trading partner information,  
7 information about said second party.

1 4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the computer-implemented steps of:  
2 based on at least a portion of said particular trading partner information, determining  
3 whether said second party is an established trading partner of said first party;  
4 based on at least a portion of said particular trading partner information, determining  
5 whether said second party is entitled to conduct said business transaction; and  
6 if it is determined that said second party is an established trading partner of said first  
7 party and that said second party is entitled to conduct said business  
8 transaction, then accessing, based on said particular trading partner  
9 information, information about said second party.

1 5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the computer-implemented steps of:  
2 based on at least a portion of said particular trading partner information, determining  
3 whether said second party is an established trading partner of said first party;  
4 and  
5 if it is determined that said second party is an established trading partner of said first  
6 party, then  
7 accessing, based on said particular trading partner information, information  
8 about one or more agreements between said first party and said second  
9 party, wherein said agreements are associated with business processes  
10 between said first party and said second party, and

11 servicing said request for said web service according to one or more of said  
12 agreements.

1 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said description of said web service is represented in  
2 Web Services Description Language (WSDL).

1 7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said description of said web service is registered in a  
2 Universal Description, Discovery and Integration (UDDI) registry that is available to  
3 the public.

1 8. The method of Claim 7, wherein said request was constructed based on information  
2 obtained by accessing said description from said registry and interpreting said  
3 description.

1 9. The method of Claim 1, wherein said particular trading partner information is  
2 included in a SOAP message.

1 10. The method of Claim 1, wherein said particular trading partner information includes  
2 identification of a physical site that is associated with said second party from which  
3 said request is received.

1 11. The method of Claim 1, wherein said particular trading partner information includes  
2 identification of a type of party that characterizes said second party.

1 12. The method of Claim 1, wherein said particular trading partner information includes  
2 identification of a business purpose that is associated with said request.

- 1 13. The method of Claim 1, wherein said particular trading partner information includes a  
2 username and a password that are used by said first party to authenticate said second  
3 party as an established trading partner of said first party.
- 1 14. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 1.
- 1 15. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 2.
- 1 16. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 3.
- 1 17. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 4.
- 1 18. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 5.

- 1 19. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 6.
- 1 20. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 7.
- 1 21. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 8.
- 1 22. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 9.
- 1 23. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 10.
- 1 24. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 11.

1 25. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 12.

1 26. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 13.

1 27. A method for conducting a business-to-business transaction over a network using  
2 SOAP messaging, in which a first legacy application that is not designed to  
3 communicate with web services and that is associated with a first party communicates  
4 with a second application that is associated with a second party, the method  
5 comprising the computer-implemented steps of:  
6 specifying in a description of a web service, that at least some XML documents that  
7 are transmitted to said first legacy application as part of web service  
8 exchanges, are to include specific trading partner information; and  
9 receiving from said second application, by said first legacy application, an XML  
10 document that is associated with a business-to-business transaction between  
11 said first party and said second party.

1 28. The method of Claim 27, wherein said XML document received from said second  
2 application includes particular trading partner information, the method further  
3 comprising the computer-implemented steps of:  
4 based on at least a portion of said particular trading partner information that is  
5 included in said XML document, accessing information about one or more

6 processes used for business transactions between said first party and said  
7 second party; and  
8 replying, by said first legacy application, to said second application in response to  
9 said XML document and according to a process of the one or more processes.

1 29. The method of Claim 27, wherein said second application is a legacy application that  
2 is not designed to communicate with web services.

1 30. The method of Claim 27, wherein said description of said web service is represented  
2 in Web Services Description Language (WSDL).

1 31. The method of Claim 27, wherein said description of said web service is registered in  
2 a Universal Description, Discovery and Integration (UDDI) registry that is available  
3 to the public.

1 32. The method of Claim 31, wherein said XML document was constructed based on  
2 information obtained by accessing said description from said registry and interpreting  
3 said description.

1 33. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 27.

1 34. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 28.

1 35. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 29.

1 36. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 30.

1 37. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 31.

1 38. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 32.

1 39. A method for conducting a business transaction over a network, the method  
2 comprising the computer-implemented steps of:  
3 accessing from a Universal Description, Discovery and Integration (UDDI) registry,  
4 by a second party, a description of a web service that is provided by a first  
5 party, wherein said description includes a requirement that at least one  
6 communication to said web service is to include trading partner information;  
7 determining from said description, by said second party, that at least one  
8 communication to said web service is to include trading partner information;



9 constructing, based on said description, a message to said web service that includes  
10 particular trading partner information according to said requirement; and  
11 transmitting said message to said web service.

1 40. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 39.